

(1) THE SECRETARY MAY GRANT ONE EXTRAORDINARY EXPANSION OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE IN THE STATE EACH CALENDAR YEAR FOR AN AREA THAT:

- (i) MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 5-704 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND
- (ii) IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE SECRETARY, HAS SUFFERED A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF ECONOMIC BASE.

(2) FOR PURPOSES OF § 5-704(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPANSION OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF ENTERPRISE ZONES THAT:

- (i) THE SECRETARY MAY DESIGNATE IN A CALENDAR YEAR; OR
- (ii) A COUNTY MAY RECEIVE IN A CALENDAR YEAR.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 83A, § 5-402(i) and (j).

Defined terms: "Area" § 5-701

"County" § 1-101

"Enterprise zone" § 5-701

"Political subdivision" § 5-701

"Secretary" § 1-101

"State" § 1-101

5-706. FOCUS AREA.

(A) IN GENERAL.

A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY REQUEST THE SECRETARY TO DESIGNATE ALL OR PART OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AS A FOCUS AREA FOR THE LESSER OF:

- (1) 5 YEARS; OR
- (2) THE REMAINDER OF THE 10-YEAR TERM OF THE APPLICABLE ENTERPRISE ZONE.

(B) TIME FOR REQUEST.

THE REQUEST MAY BE MADE ON OR BEFORE A SUBMISSION DATE WHEN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION APPLIES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A NEW ENTERPRISE ZONE OR AFTER THE SECRETARY HAS DESIGNATED AN ENTERPRISE ZONE.

(C) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

THE SECRETARY MAY GRANT THE REQUEST IF THE AREA IS LOCATED IN AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AND MEETS AT LEAST THREE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- (1) THE AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE AREA, OR WITHIN A REASONABLE PROXIMITY TO THE AREA BUT IN THE SAME COUNTY, FOR THE MOST RECENT 18-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE IS AT LEAST 150% OF THE GREATER OF THE AVERAGE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN EITHER THE STATE OR THE UNITED STATES DURING THAT SAME PERIOD;